

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 MBFR-03

SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-10 ACDA-19 EB-11 RSR-01 /136 W

----- 123276

R 021920Z AUG 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1054

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 3196

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: ATLANTIC RELATIONS

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SPEAKING NOTES USED BY FRG REP IN SPC MEETING JULY 31 ON SUBJECT OF ATLANTIC RELATIONS. FRG ALSO CIRCULATED SECDEF-FRG MOD LEBER COMMUNIQUE REMARKING THAT THERE WERE SEVERAL USEFUL ELEMENTS IN IT. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION AT THE MEETING, THE SPC HAVING AGREED TO TAKE UP SUBJECT ON AUGUST 6.

BEGIN TEXT:

1. THE ESSENTIAL TASK OF THE ALLIANCE REMAINS THE PROTECTION OF THE NATO TERRITORY AND OF THE POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE AGAINST THE USE AND THREAT OF FORCE IN WHATEVER FORM.

2. THE SECURITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE CAN ONLY BE ENSURED BY A BALANCE OF FORCES. IN VIEW OF THE CONSTANT STRENGTHENING OF THE FORCES OF THE WARSAW PACT, THE DETERMINATION OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE NOT TO RELAX THEIR OWN DEFENCE EFFORTS IS OF THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE.

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THIS IS THE ONLY WAY IN WHICH A BALANCED POWER RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EAST AND WEST CAN BE MAINTAINED.

3. THE EFFORTS REQUIRED FOR DEFENCE ARE THE PRICE FOR PEACE AND

INDEPENDENCE AS WELL AS FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE PROCESS OF DETENTE. THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES WILL MAKE THIS CLEAR TO THEIR POPULATIONS AGAIN AND AGAIN.

4. THE SECURITY OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE IS INDIVISIBLE. DEFENCE REMAINS A JOINT RESPONSIBILITY. IF EACH MEMBER OF THE ALLIANCE MEETS HIS ALLIANCE OBLIGATIONS, AND IF THE ALLIANCE IS PREPARED TO USE ALL THE DEFENSIVE MEANS AT ITS DISPOSAL, THE CASUS FOEDERIS WILL IN ALL PROBABILITY NOT ARISE, AND THE ALLIANCE WILL NOT HAVE TO MAKE USE OF ANY OF ITS DEFENSIVE MEANS.

5. THE STRATEGY OF FLEXIBLE RESPONSE AND OF FORWARD DEFENCE WILL BE MAINTAINED. ONLY THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF CONVENTIONAL FORCES AND TACTICAL AND STRATEGIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS LEADS TO AN ADEQUATE DEGREE OF DETERRENCE.

6. THE PRESENCE OF AMERICAN FORCES IN EUROPE IS AN EXPRESSION OF THE COMMON INTERESTS ON EITHER SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC AND OF THE INDIVISIBILITY OF DEFENCE. THE AMERICAN FORCES IN EUROPE ARE

- AN INDISPENSABLE PART OF THE BALANCE OF FORCES;

- THE LINK WITH THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS POTENTIAL OF THE ALLIANCE AND THUS A GUARANTEE FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE DETERRENT;

- AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF THE MILITARY, POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL STRUCTURE OF THE ALLIANCE.

AMERICAN FORCES IN EUROPE CANNOT BE REPLACED BY FORCES OF EUROPEAN MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE. THERE IS A LINK BETWEEN AN UNDIMINISHED PRESENCE OF AMERICAN FORCES AND THE WILLINGNESS OF THE EUROPEAN MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE TO CONTINUE THEIR DEFENCE EFFORTS AT THE SAME LEVEL AS IN THE PAST.

7. THE BURDEN OF THE COMMON DEFENCE EFFORTS MUST BE BORNE
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BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE. THIS PRINCIPLE OF BURDEN-SHARING SHOULD BE GIVEN PRIORITY, ALSO WITH A VIEW TO THE AMERICAN FORCES STATIONED IN EUROPE.

8. THE EFFORTS UNDERTAKEN BY THE ALLIES TO RATIONALIZE THEIR DEFENCE EFFORTS AND TO MAKE THEM MORE COST EFFECTIVE WILL BE CONTINUED. THIS APPLIES PARTICULARLY TO THE PROBLEM OF EQUIPMENT AND LOGISTICS.

9. COMMON DEFENCE IS TO BE IMPROVED BY JOINT EFFORTS OF THE EUROPEAN MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE.
END TEXT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 02 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NATO03669
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730868/abqcebma.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Aug-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <21-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ATLANTIC RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, NATO
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005